

The University of Southern Mississippi  
**The Aquila Digital Community**

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Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes

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8-26-2011

## **Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes - August 26, 2011**

USM Gulf Coast Faculty Council

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GULF COAST FACULTY COUNCIL

PLANNING SESSION

August 26, 2011

Special guests were Dr. Frances Lucas and Dr. Tom Lansford. Lunch was provided.

Tom: Distributed a 'Guidelines for GC operations/Functional Responsibilities' list.

Enrollment is great—it's up 10% (unofficially).

Discussed travel money allocations, status of visiting instructors (if longer than 2 years, should be made permanent), question was asked as to whether or not there are more community college students coming to USM before they finish their 2 years at the CC. Not sure. (If they do, it doesn't violate the 2+2 program). BTW: 2+2 program does not equal a degree. How can this change to mean that the student can get the degree? Working on transfers.

Dr. Lucas: Compared this year with this time last year. Things are so much better now.

Getting back to GP: Next week, there will be a groundbreaking for Lloyd Hall as well as for Hardy Hall. Phase I of LH will be started now. Plans for phase II and III will be sent to the IHL for approval in October. (Hopefully next fall for the 2<sup>nd</sup> two phases).

Health Building and Elizabeth Hall are left. The old recreation building will be the new Health/social work building. Working with the contractors for the Science building to begin the Health/SWK building (maybe begin work on that one in October). This depends on if it can be done for the amount of money existing.

Elizabeth Hall design had to be reengineered. When drawings are done, hopefully break ground in November. Won't be ready next fall, but should be ready by Christmas (ready for spring semester).

Be more student-friendly: Working to reengineer the enrollment process. Still some problems, but it working better. Still a long way to go. The process is working better with fewer people.

With the bookstore back on the GP campus, the entire registration process is better.

RCM: There will be an all-day meeting on Monday to discuss this. It may or may not be accepted.

Next Wednesday: convocation and groundbreaking—if you have an opportunity to speak to the President, please do so and thank her for all of her support for the GC. (such as listening to the faculty; for the Coast guidelines; money for the Health Building; supporting us for the construction projects).

Question for faculty: What do you hope we focus on this year? More teaching space (such as GCLib 204), more resources (books, equipment), travel money for students to do research. Biological sciences needs TAs to help teach labs. Day care center for students/staff/faculty with children. Graduate program in psychology, school psychology, counseling, etc.. Career guidance—working with local businesses. Clarify relationship with QEP—what is the future of the Speaking/Writing Center? It would be nice to have an actual ‘learning commons’ where the learning labs (math, speaking/writing, foreign language, etc.) were all in the same place.

Discussion then turned to items that need to be discussed at GCFC meetings for the coming year. (All were written on the white board):

RCM

Graduate students on the GC

Funding for centers

Work load standards

Faculty handbook (GC rep)

Difference in faculty salary / equity issues *(send letter from Council supporting this effort)*

Faculty survey

International faculty issues (revisit this issue; maybe do a survey)

Site-based accreditation

Council as standing committee

Support for grants/external funding for GC

Career services

Counseling Center for students

Faculty Club

LEC workshops

Food services

Faculty input on committees

Registration enrollment issues

Summer pay for faculty

Faculty recognition

Communication to faculty

Faculty/life survey

Model for running Speaking/Writing Center (combining all learning centers into one area)

Full testing center

Student success commons

T & P standards

Possible guests for future meetings:

President Saunders

Bob Lyman

Dean of graduate students

Ann Billings